



# The Pirate News

Robert L. Stevenson Elementary • A California Distinguished School  
3333 West Oak Street, Burbank, CA 91505 • (818) 558-5522

Volume 25, Issue 2

October 2009

## It's Time for Stevenson to Shout Boo!

Friday, October 30th  
5-8pm

Stevenson PTA invites you to a night of  
chills and thrills, frights and delights.

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Pizza             | Picture Booth   |
| Carnival Games    | Popcorn         |
| Monster Makeovers | Crafts          |
| BBQ               | Haunted Hallway |
| Boo Shop          | Bake Sale       |
| Hair Color        | Cake Walk       |
| Cotton Candy      | Henna           |
| Pumpkin Patch     | Tattoos         |

If you would like to volunteer or donate to the event,  
contact Tiffany Bakas [ptatagteam@stevensonpirates.net](mailto:ptatagteam@stevensonpirates.net)

### COME IF YOU DARE!



### Cake Decorating Contest

*Will yours be the Spookiest? Kookiest? Or  
Scariest of them all?*

*All cakes must be dropped off at school between  
8:30am and 4.00pm on Friday, October 30th.*

*Cake pans and plates must be disposable OR be  
clearly marked with your child's name and room  
number if you want it returned to you.*


*After 4pm please drop off your cake at our Cake  
Decorating Contest table on the playground (It  
will not be included in the contest but can be  
donated to the Cake Walk as a prize!)*

*ALL cakes in the contest will be donated as a  
prize to the cake walk unless you  
choose to "buy back" the cake for \$10.00.*



*BeWARE of  
Pirates!*

educate • motivate • vaccinate  
Let's Fight Flu Together!



**Time: October 10th from 9.30am**  
**Location: Stevenson Elementary**



Stevenson PTA is committed to helping keep children, parents and our local community healthy throughout the influenza season. That is why we are partnering with Flu Busters and Novartis Vaccines to provide convenient access to affordable influenza vaccinations for all members of our community.

For the 2009-2010 flu vaccination season, the cost of injectable vaccine for those who pre-register is \$25 each, and a "walk-in" will pay \$27. **Pre-Register online:** <https://secure.flubusters.com/> or call (866) 358-2878.

To find out more about this great community initiative visit our website.

Read in-depth articles online: [www.stevensonpirates.net](http://www.stevensonpirates.net)

# From the Principal's Desk: Welcome Families!

Dear Parents,

Stevenson Elementary School is a place where everyone embraces our motto, "Knowledge is our Treasure!" We believe that quality education can be achieved through high expectations student performance and behavior. The climate for learning that our staff creates at Stevenson results in improved academic achievement for ALL of our students.

As you may have read in the Burbank Leader, dated September 19, "Students make big API strides". API is the Academic Performance Index. The API is used to measure school performance, set academic growth targets, and monitor progress over time. The API ranks California schools on a score between 200 to 1,000 points. The state's target is 800 for every school. Stevenson's API score is 877! We made an increase of 52 points based upon our state testing (STAR) results that all of our second through fifth grade students take each spring. The following charts show the increased number of advanced/proficient students from 2008 to 2009:

## English Language Arts

2nd		3rd		4th		5th	
2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
58	75	53	65	75	82	63	84

## Mathematics

2nd		3rd		4th		5th	
2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
76	84	74	76	65	76	56	69

Teachers work together to determine areas of specific need, set goals, and share strategies to assist their students in meeting grade level standards. We focus on what students need each day. As a result, we're seeing the "fruits of our labor" now.

In addition, we implement "Power Clinics" to provide intervention for our students who are not meeting grade level standards.

Finally, our belief in strong family/school/community partnerships also supports a high quality education for our students. Your continued support and involvement creates a climate of learning that enables every child to experience personal success and develop into a lifelong learner.

Sincerely,

*Debbie Ginnett*



# FFS Presidents' Message

Dear Stevenson Families

We have had a great start to our new school year with lots of activities and fundraiser kick-offs. It can all seem so overwhelming sometimes and as a second grade parent I understand how hard it can be to stay on top of everything. That being said, we have made a huge commitment to making the school's website, [stevensonpirates.net](http://stevensonpirates.net), a great resource for everyone. The most recent information about fundraisers, programs, services and activities are always found right on the home page. I encourage every parent to visit the site and we welcome your feedback. Send website related inquiries to [news@stevensonpirates.net](mailto:news@stevensonpirates.net)

We have a lot of exciting things happening throughout this holiday season so we wanted to highlight a very special program that allows your child to create art to be applied to a wonderful selection of lovely gifts while raising money for the school. The program is called "Original Works" and flyers will be going home in your child's folder around Oct 12th – so keep an eye out for it!

Our first PTA/FFS meeting had a great turnout and we are very excited about all the parents who have stepped up this year to help us run all the wonderful programs we bring to Stevenson. If you are interested in joining any committee – please send an email to [ffs@stevensonpirates.net](mailto:ffs@stevensonpirates.net). If you filled out the bright pink FFS form at the beginning of the year we will be in touch with you as events and needs come up. Thank you for an overwhelming response!

FFS welcomes founding member Jessica Good back to the FFS board as our auditor. We can never get enough of her as she brings so much experience to the team.

FFS is proud to announce that it will be taking over the Stevenson's Annual Talent Show. Since this fun event meets our goal "To enrich the education of our children by providing Art, Music, Dance programs to Stevenson Elementary" – we are honored to make this an FFS sponsored event. Our Instructional Dance Program also started up again in September with Garri Dance Studio. They will be producing a Holiday Dance Recital to be held at the school on December 10th. Stay tuned for more updates!

We are looking forward to the upcoming PTA sponsored Boo Bash and seeing all your faces join in on the fun!

*De Eldridge & Jennifer Jesperson*

[ffs@stevensonpirates.net](mailto:ffs@stevensonpirates.net)



*De & Arthur*



*Autry & Jennifer*



# Make A Difference Join PTA Today!

## PTA Presidents' Message

Booooo! Did we scare you?! Hopefully we were able to at least grab your attention! Yes, the PTA Boo Bash is right around the corner. Well, October 30th to be exact, but we're getting ahead of ourselves.



To recap just a little bit – the first five weeks of our school year have flown by like a tornado! All kinds of things have already happened. Our big QPS fundraising drive was launched and has already landed... with great success, we might add. The Book Fair exploded on the scene and was jammed packed with activity! Our Back-to-School Night seemed to help us all orient to our new school year a bit better and the PTA Green Team had a tremendous day with all kinds of volunteers running around the campus planting, painting and cleaning things up. So we have started things off with a bang!

Besides all these wonderful activities, we wanted to address another crucial aspect of our Stevenson PTA – that would be the amazing opportunity we have to be part of PTA's campaign for child advocacy. On a local, statewide and national level, PTA not only represents our children regarding their education but also on the issues of their health and welfare. As a matter of fact, in this day and age where lobbyists from our private sector seem to have great control over our legislators in Sacramento and Washington, the PTA is probably the only lobbying group around that is exclusively working for our children's needs - their safety, welfare, health and education. The PTA does have a "special interest group" – it's our children.

The PTA is a lot of things to a lot of people. It's Book Fair and the Green Team, it's Boo Bash and Walk Your Child To School Day. It's a gathering place and a conduit for helpful information. It also is a very powerful advocate for our children's rights. There is a lot to learn and know about how we can all be more involved in this aspect of our PTA. We both plan on sharing more and more information regarding this aspect of PTA with you throughout the year.

The stronger we can make our own PTA the better the opportunity to improve our children's lives! So if you haven't already, please join our Stevenson PTA today.

*Tiffany Bakas PTA President & Felix Chamberlain PTA Exec V. P.*

Contact info: [ptatagteam@stevensonpirates.net](mailto:ptatagteam@stevensonpirates.net)

## All Hands on Deck!

The R.L. Stevenson PTA needs your help!

Please join PTA this year.

It's only \$5 dollars!

(Dollars, not doubloons)

PTA organizes and raises funds for:

- ☠ Disaster Preparedness
- ☠ The Science Fair
- ☠ Field Trips
- ☠ Boo Bash (Fall Festival)
- ☠ Educational Assemblies
- ☠ The Talent Show
- ☠ The All-School Celebration

...and more!

If you have any questions about PTA, call or write: Felicia Cain at 818-557-1305 or feliciacain@yahoo.com



**Why it's good to join the PTA:** Get connected. There's no better way to know what's happening in your school.

**Everyone is welcome.**

The number one reason to join PTA is to benefit your child. In doing so, you also help your school. There are other advantages.

**Here are just a few:**

- Tap into a Network. PTA junctions provide opportunities to meet other parents and teachers, build a rapport and discuss parenting issues that are on your mind.
- Speak Up! Because PTA is a forum for exchanging ideas, you are encouraged to make suggestions and more effectively suggest change at your child's school.
- Most of all, it's rewarding for you and your children. We **NEED** you in PTA!

And please remember - when you become a PTA member, you don't have to volunteer or attend the meetings.

Every Child, One Voice.

**PTA**  
every child, one voice®

**PTA**  
cada niño, una voz®



## HELP OUR KIDS Reach For The Stars!

Join us at our PTA & FFS meeting

Thursday, October 8th 8:30am  
in the Library

Refreshments & Childcare Provided



**SIGN-UP FORMS CAN BE RETURNED IN YOUR CHILD'S BACKPACK OR DROPPED IN TO THE OFFICE**

Please complete all the lines, the PTA organization needs to know who our members are so we can better serve you.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Last, First) Parent Student Teacher Staff Community

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (Mailing Address, City, Zip Code)

Dues for Each Person: \$5.00

Number of Members X

Total Amount:

Add additional members on a separate piece of paper.

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Last, First) Parent Student Teacher Staff Community

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (Mailing Address, City, Zip Code)

Your Students in this School:

Name	Teacher	Grade	Room

As a member, I understand that my address information will be shared with the California State PTA and National PTA and will only be used for PTA purposes. Please see the privacy policy at [www.pta.org/privacy\\_policy.html](http://www.pta.org/privacy_policy.html) or call 800-307-4782 for information.

Read in-depth articles online: [www.stevensonpirates.net](http://www.stevensonpirates.net)



# ENRICHMENT EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

## AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT CLASSES ARE BACK!

We're happy to announce that Stevenson will again be offering several After-School Enrichment Classes on campus!

Enrichment Educational Experiences and Mad Science are excited to work with our school and our children!

Starting the week of **October 5th** we will have 3 classes running for 8 weeks.

### Monday

**Beginner Guitar** Mr Daniel from E3  
Offered to grades K-5  
3:15 - 4:15  
Room 2

### Wednesday

**Mad Science**  
Offered to grades 1-5  
3:15 - 4:15  
Bungalow A

### Friday

**Multicultural Art** Miss Margo from E3  
Offered to grades K-5  
3:15 - 4:15  
Bungalow A

Note: It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to insure that their child arrives to class on time and is picked up promptly at 4:15.

Registration and Fee Information was sent home with your child. Any questions should be directed to the event organizers.

Kym Wheeler  
k2wheeler@yahoo.com

Jessica Good  
ingoodco@me.com



**Friday is Jamba Juice  
Day at Stevenson!  
Beat the Heat with a  
delicious smoothie and  
help raise money for  
your school!**



**REFLECTIONS!** Reflect on the Theme. Create an Original Work. Be Recognized.

The PTA sponsored Reflections Contest unleashes your artistic talents! This year's theme is: "Beauty Is..."

Are you talented in one of these categories :

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Visual Arts         | Literature         |
| Musical Composition | Film Production    |
| Photography         | Dance Choreography |

To enter you must create an original work along with the completed entry form and submit it to your teacher or the office by **Oct 16, 2009**. All entries will be judged by our panel, some will move on the next level but ALL will be put in a show in our school gallery!

There are specific guidelines to follow for each category, so **PLEASE** review the entry packet sent home with your child or visit the Stevenson website - [stevensonpirates.net](http://stevensonpirates.net) for all the details and links.

If you have any questions, please contact the Reflections Chair:

Jessica Good  
818-281-9476  
ingoodco@me.com

For more information, please visit our school website.



Our new Original Works Fundraiser will allow your child's artwork to be transformed into beautiful, personalized gifts for family and friends.

Using artwork created in the classroom, parents will be able to order note cards, totes, personalized calendars, mugs and many other one-of-a-kind gifts.

Begin your holiday gift buying early with these unique personal gifts!

Your Room Reps will be scheduling time with each classroom to create their masterpieces. The artwork will be sent home along with the Original Works catalog and order form October 12th.

**All orders will be due in to the office by Monday, October 26th.**

Thank you to all of our Room Reps for helping with this new great program!

Please direct any questions to:  
Kym Wheeler  
818-846-3944  
k2wheeler@yahoo.com

# It's Easy Being Green

It is football season! Although, I'm not a huge fan, I can appreciate it. Especially the passion that the fans carry for the sport.

NFL football is the number one sport in the United States – at least as far as fan support and revenue goes. So, when one of their teams say that they want to lessen their impact on the environment, we need to pay attention! Especially when it's a big team like the San Francisco 49ers! California tends to lead the country in environmental awareness so this could be the start of something big!

Find out more, visit [stevensonpirates.net](http://stevensonpirates.net)



our kids  
deserve the best  
help our school win \$20,000

Whether you are a parent, teacher, student or community member, you can help R.L. Stevenson win \$20,000 in the "America's Favorite School" contest sponsored by Care2 and GreatSchools: <http://www.AmericasFavoriteSchool.com>

But we need your help to win. Please visit our contest page at <http://www.care2.com/schoolcontest/601567> and vote for us – it's free, it's easy and every vote helps rally support for our school! The last day to vote is November 8, 2009.

Once you vote, please ask your friends and family to vote for us, too. With your help we can help our school win \$20,000! Add a banner to your website, blog, Facebook or MySpace page. You can also ask your friends and family to post a banner to support your school.

The more votes your school gets, the better your school's chances of winning. This contest is a fun opportunity to rally community support for your school as well as a great way to win much needed financial support in this difficult economy.

# PIRATE DAY



It was great to see so many scurvy pirates at Stevenson's Pirate Day. If you have a picture of a Stevenson Pirate that you'd like to share, we'll happily add it to our website's Pirate Gallery.

Send your pictures to Emma: [emma@xurble.org](mailto:emma@xurble.org)



The week of **October 19-23** we are observing 'Red Ribbon Week' here at our school. Red Ribbon Week is a national awareness campaign that began in 1985 to serve as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of our children through a commitment to drug prevention and education.

There will be various age appropriate activities going on throughout the week to promote healthy choices and to teach our students about being responsible and safe. Friday, October 23rd, will be 'Turn Your Back on Bad Choices' day. So, on this day please send your children to school with their shirts on backwards.

This is a good week to have conversations or read books regarding this subject as they will be hearing about it at school and that can open a communication that is sometimes hard to initiate.

Thank you in advance for supporting your children's participation in Red Ribbon Week's events and activities.

# School Site Council Announcement

Site Council (SSC) is a committee of parents and school personnel that approves budgets and oversees the effectiveness of certain programs that are specified in the Education Code. It is a very important committee and many decisions are made during these meetings. We had two names submitted for nomination, which filled the two open positions on the committee.

Congratulations to the following parents:

Dennis Bartok: He has a son, Sandor, in first grade. He served as SSC president at his son's former school. Mr. Bartok stated

he "would love to continue to be involved and supportive at Stevenson."

Laurie Grote: She has 2 daughters, Marin and Lydia, who attend Stevenson. She wrote she "would like to help Stevenson grow despite issues of bad economy, high unemployment, and general unrest." She believes that "with careful planning and informed decision making, we can overcome these obstacles and continue to make Stevenson the best possible environment for our kids."

Thank you for your interest in Stevenson and our students.

# Read-A-Thon Challenge

At the start of the summer we asked our students to take on the PTA Read-A-Thon Challenge. Our aim was to keep our students reading through the summer while raising much needed funds for the school library.

We are proud to announce that our students rose to the challenge and made our first ever Read-A-Thon an amazing success! Participants strengthened their reading skills and raised **\$2,462.50** for our librarian!

We would like to thank all our students who participated and Gina Boulais for all the work she put into organizing this event.

## Grade Level Winners For Reading The Most Books:

Kindergarten - Elizabeth Blumberg  
1st Grade - Maddie Simpson  
2nd Grade - Wyatt Wheeler  
3rd Grade - Aryaman Rallapalli  
4th Grade - Sambodh Mitra  
5th Grade - Indigo MacConnell

## Our Top Three Fundraisers:

1st Place - Wyatt Wheeler  
2nd Place - Mylo Gosch  
3rd Place - Elizabeth Blumberg

## Participants

**Kindergarteners:** Michael Berreth, Owen Kinnear, Andrew Ly

**First Graders:** Bella Boulais, Austin Kane, Hank Matusek

**Second Graders:** Autry Jespersen, Ethan Rockwell, Rushikesh Pande, Arthur Eldridge, Sebastian Arenas, Jenna Regala, Mohammed Zuhaib

**Third Graders:** Jonas Holt, Blake Spro, Dennis Flowers, Jackson Sost, Zaina Hayath, Loyal Terry

**Fourth Graders:** Elijah Newman, Aaron Cohen

**Fifth Graders:** Julie McHorney, Jarrett Malone, Isabella Fumes, Connor Boulais, Alysa Rothfuss, Carson Palmer



 **International** *in the*  
**Walk to School USA**

Friday, October 2nd

Walk To School With Your Child, Family And Friends!

Refreshments will be served at School.

To find our more visit <http://www.walktoschool-usa.org>

Join Kids and Families  
Around the Globe to Walk  
and Bicycle to School in  
October!



Read in-depth articles online: [www.stevensonpirates.net](http://www.stevensonpirates.net)

# It's A Great Time To Dine Out With Scrip



shopwithscrip.com

## Accelerated Reader Program

Hello, this is Dr. Kevin Jolly, Superintendent of the Burbank Unified School District, calling about the launch of our K-12 Accelerated Reader program. If your school does not currently participate in AR, you may e-mail [susanrife@burbankusd.org](mailto:susanrife@burbankusd.org) to get both your children, as well as your whole family, involved in reading. For \$10 per person, you will get a year's license to have your reading level set, an individual goal established, and access to 120,000 tests on common books you would find in a school, home, or community library.

You can also write tests on any book, if a test is not available. People who double their goal will be invited to be on TV at our monthly Board Meetings, while 5 students, one parent or community member, and one staff member will be taken by Limousine to lunch at the Warner Brothers studios if they achieve the highest multiple of their goal in 5 weeks.

The first contest has just started, and ends October 23rd. We are also looking into a top prize of a new car for licensed students at our three high schools, for the person who does the highest percentage of their goal this school year.

I and my family are participating, so good luck, and let the reading begin!

**Shopping with Scrip is better than cash!**

**Your Made in the Shade Committee would like to present our new service to you.**

**You can buy gift cards from us and use them like cash at stores you shop at everyday! It's easy and you get the full cash value that you paid for the card. The best thing is that these companies donate a generous percentage of the value back to Stevenson. The cards are available from retailers you love to shop at everyday for everything like Vons, Staples, Applebees, Jamba Juice, Barnes and Noble and many more. By using this service you are helping us raise the money needed to put permanent shade structures over our kids play areas!**


### How to Order:

**Order forms will be sent home in your child's Monday folder. Please return your order to school by the following Monday, checks should be made out to Families for Stevenson.**

**You can also go to [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) to place an order using your debit card. When you sign up your family using the simple on-line instructions, you will be asked to identify Families for Stevenson as the organization you wish to support by entering the enrollment code CB759E9121L4L. You can place your order on-line using your debit card. Orders can be collected from school on Fridays. Cards can be shipped directly to your home, shipping charges will apply.**

**It's that simple! By using scrip in place of cash or using these cards as gifts for friends and family, you can raise money for our shade with ease. For a detailed list of retailers you can buy scrip cards for, go to [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com)!**

**If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact our coordinator at [piratesscrip@gmail.com](mailto:piratesscrip@gmail.com).**




We would like to thank all those who contributed to our One For Books initiative! The money raised will be used to enhance our classroom libraries. For every dollar raised by our school, Scholastic will donate a book to a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children. Thank you Stevenson Families for not only making a difference in our school but in the wider community.

**We would also like to give special thanks to Richard Meza who raised \$101 for our One For Books initiative, you did an amazing job!**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR "FOOTBALL ON THURSDAYS" PROGRAM**  
**Contact LeeAnne: 213-247-5893**

Thank you to our Stevenson Pirates Website Sponsor!



If you don't have access to a computer but would like to view a complete article from this newsletter, copies can be requested in the school office.

**Read in-depth articles online: [www.stevensonpirates.net](http://www.stevensonpirates.net)**

# R.L. STEVENSON ELEMENTARY - OCTOBER 2009

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
28	29 *TUESDAY HOURS <b>CRAFT CLUB</b> 8:30-10:30AM   NORTH END PIZZA NIGHT	30	1	2   
5 LABOR DAY	6 *TUESDAY HOURS <b>CRAFT CLUB</b> 8:30-10:30AM  VISIT STEVENSON'S WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE	7	8 <b>8.30AM FFS/ PTA MEETING</b>  LOCATION: LIBRARY REFRESHMENTS & CHILD CARE PROVIDED	9 <b>ORIGINAL WORKS KICK OFF</b>  
12	13 *TUESDAY HOURS <b>CRAFT CLUB</b> 8:30-10:30AM  VISIT STEVENSON'S WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE	14	15	16 <b>REFLECTIONS DEADLINE</b>  
19	20 *TUESDAY HOURS <b>CRAFT CLUB</b> 8:30-10:30AM VISIT STEVENSON'S WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE	21	22	23  
<b>RED RIBBON WEEK</b>				
26	27 *TUESDAY HOURS <b>CRAFT CLUB</b> 8:30-10:30AM   NORTH END PIZZA NIGHT	28	29	30 




**Let's Fly the Flag For Our School!**

Are you interested in submitting an article for the newsletter and website?

Contact: Emma Clarkson  
(818) 861-7139  
emma@xurbie.org

**PIZZA DOUGH RAISER**


Order From Our Friends At North End Pizzeria!



Use a Stevenson Coupon on October 27th & 20% of the Order Value Will Go to Your School.

(818) 557-8325  
212 East Grove Ave.  
Burbank CA 91502

Coupons are available on our school website.




**PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR NEWSLETTER!**

Remember it's Easy Being Green!

**\* TUESDAY HOURS**

KGN Early Bird 8:30-1:05  
KGN Late Bird 9:30-2:05  
1st - 5th 8:30-2:05



Thank you to our Pirate News Sponsor!